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COMPUTER SIMULATION OF A PROPELLANT FEED SYSTEM FOR A LIQUID PROPELLANT GUN

Craig Richard Dampier

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL Monterey, California



THESIS

COMPUTER SIMULATION OF A PROPELLANT FEED SYSTEM FOR A LIQUID PROPELLANT GUN

bу

Craig Richard Dampier
June 1976

Thesis Advisor:

T. M. Houlihan

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identity by block number)

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and chamber pressure were compared for a nominal driving pressure of 140 psi. The important system parameters affecting projectile ram time and chamber pressure oscillations were investigated and potential problem areas for testing with actual propellant were identified.

by

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ABSTRACI

A computer model was developed to simulate a projectile ram-propellant feed system for a Liquid Propellant Gun. Using a lumped parameter approach, a set of simultaneous differential equations was derived for the complex interaction of the propellant fluid, the driving injector and the projectile. The computer model was verified against a 20 mm experimental Injector displacement, projectile displacement, and chamber pressure were compared for a nominal driving pressure of 140 psi. The important system parameters affecting projectile ram time and chamber pressure cscillations were investigated problem areas for testing with actual potential propellant were identified.

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I. INTRODUCTION

As the state of the art of weapons technology improves, more complex systems are continually being developed. To future needs these systems must have performance, less weight and volume, less complicated logistics, and at the same time be more cost effective than current systems. One candidate for these future weapon systems is the liquid propellant qun (LPG) . Numerous investigations over the past thirty years have demonstrated its potential if the technology can be developed to utilize a liquid propellant in a large caliber gun.

One important area that needs investigation aspect of fluid propellant handling. The ordnance designer must kncw the necessary propellant flow rates and pressure regimes needed to achieve the desired system performance. These parameters must be within allowable safety margins for the handling and use of the explosive propellant. One possible design of an LPG which would allow a very high firing rate utilizes the propellant to ram the loaded projectile. Combining the normally separate propellant load and ram cycles decreases the required novement of mechanical Thus, using this method, it is feasible that firing rates in excess of four to five times present rates could be This thesis was directed toward identifying the important fluid dynamic parameters involved with such a projectile ram feed system.

II. BACKGROUND

During 1974 and early 1975, an investigation was conducted at the Naval Postgraduate School to study, both analytically and experimentally, the fluid dynamics of a liquid propellant under conditions similar to those which would exist in a rapid-fire LPG feed system. The results of this investigation were to be used to establish such LPG design and performance parameters as time-to-load, injection supply pressure, injection system configuration, ullage, charge-tc-mass ratio, caliber size, and projectile mass. It was hoped that this investigation would identify any potential problem areas for further detailed research.

The basic objective of the experimental portion of the investigation was to identify what fluid dynamic characteristics of a liquid propellant feed system would limit lcading times and hence rates of fire. experimental model of a basic propellant feed system was designed and built. Data on injector displacement, breech chamber pressure, and ram gas pressure (input driving pressure), were recorded for driving pressures between 50 220 psig in 10 psi increments. As reported in Ref. 1, it was found that the instantaneous behavior of the pressure was the result of a complex interaction of inertia forces, viscous forces, and the unsteady motion The experiments demonstrated that frictional and inertial effects were significant during the movements of the injector and the projectile slug. Once the projectile slug stopped, the effect of entrapped gas in the fluid caused large breech chamber pressure oscillations. several runs, sub-atmospheric pressures were experienced which suggested the possibility of cavitation and hence varor-phase ignition. Over all, it was found that the ram time had a quadratic dependence upon ram pressure.

The analytical portion of the investigation was directed toward predicting the pressure and flow rate of the propellant and the projectile slug motion during an LPG loading cycle. The mathematical model which was developed and programmed on an analog computer predicted the position, velocity, and acceleration of the projectile and the pressure at various points in the system as functions of time. The model was tested against experimental results and found to be adequate for the prediction of projectile ram time. An analysis was performed using the model to indicate the areas of system redesign likely to be most profitable and to obtain preliminary predictions of LFG loading system performance under a variety of design conditions. The results of the analytical study, as well as a summary of the experimental work is contained in Ref. 2.

aforementioned model was the starting point for the present study. To better understand the derivations in the following sections, Figure (1) indicates the geometry of a tasic projectile ram propellant feed system. Αn injector chamber is filled with propellant, which is then pumped into the gun breech by applying ram pressure to the ram side of the injector riston. This can be accomplished by using high pressure cas from an accumulator or by using an hydraulic drive system. The force exerted by the injector piston drives the fluid propellant through the connecting line into the gun breech. The rapidly accelerated propellant drives the already loaded projectile to its seated position ready for firing.

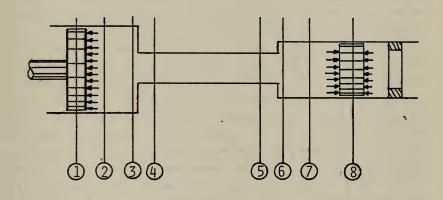


Figure 1 - BASIC GEOMETRY

The ccmplex nature of this dynamic ram process is not easy to describe with mathematical equations. Many researchers have approached the problem using wave mechanics and partial differential equations. These equations were then modified according to the propagation characteristics of the system and the various boundary conditions encountered therein. This usually led to involved finite difference methods of solution on a digital computer.

Another possible approach considers the kinetic energy involved in the raw process. This is the approach that was used to derive the governing equations for the previously described analog computer model. Beginning with the input side, a force balance on the injector piston yielded an equation for the pressure in the injector chamber in terms of the injector motion. Writing Bernoulli's equations for head losses at the expansion to the breech chamber, the contraction to the connecting line, and an orifice in the connecting line resulted in an equation for the pressure drcp in the connecting line in terms of the square of the fluid velccity and the fluid acceleration. A force balance on the projectile slug yielded a third equation which described the breech chamber pressure in terms of the slug Ic solve these equations, some method of relating the motions in the injector, connecting line, and breach chamber had to be established. It was assumed that the fluid was incompressible and therefore these motions were identical. Ic facilitate the analog simulation it was also assumed that the input ram pressure was a step input. the process of converting these equations to an integral form for wiring on an analog computer, all variables were normalized to permit scaling.

Despite these limiting assumptions, the analog computer model was able to predict the time to ram the projectile and

the chamter pressures which occur during the time that the injector is in motion. Due to the incompressibility assumption, the model was unable to account for the pressure transients or "water hammer" type pressure oscillations which occurred when the projectile was seated and the propellant fluid was being decelerated. These pressure oscillations are important to the system designer because the peak breech chamber load pressure is experienced during these oscillations. It is also possible that these oscillations could interfere with the uniformity of the ignition and subsequent combustion of the propellant.

A straight forward attempt was made to extend this analog model by first converting it to a digital computer program. This allowed an accurate representation of the input ram pressure and the use of unnormalized variables to be incorporated. These improvements increased the accuracy of the model but the effect of the compressibility of the propellant fluid still was not taken into account. Trying to add compressibility effects to this model by adding time derivatives of the pressure terms to the governing equations unlinked the motions of the injector, the connecting line fluid, and the projectile slug causing a problem with too many unknown variables for the number of equations involved.

It was decided that a new approach should be tried which would adequately describe the system pressure oscillations. The approach would feature an engineering model which would be easy to use, adaptable to any LPG feed system, and not obscure the interaction of system parameters by complicated mathematics.

III. DERIVATION OF COMPUTER MODEL

A. LUMPEL FARAMETER APPROACH

The approach that showed the greatest promise for modeling the LPG feed system was that of the fluid transmission line concept. This approach, which has become popular in the last five to ten years, is based on a pressure-voltage and flow velocity-current analogy with Electrical Engineering determinations. It is an outgrowth of the large amount of effort that has been devoted to investigating fluid line transients. Reference 3 is a good survey of this field.

For complex systems this approach is usually simplified by using the approximation of lumped parameters. The effects of fluid inertia, capacitance, and resistance are "lumped" and considered to act only in discreet areas of the system. This results in a reduction of the unknown parameters due to the assumed lack of interaction of the different fluid effects. This approximation, however, results in the necessity of using several empirical constants which must be determined by fitting experimental data. The ordinary differential equations that are derived from this method can be solved either by Laplace transformation or by computer integration.

To consider the effect of fluid inertia it is assumed that only pressure and inertia forces are present and that compressibility effects are negligible in the volume under consideration. Then,

$$P_1 - P_2 = \rho L \frac{dV}{dT}$$

where ρ is the propellant fluid density, I is a characteristic length and V=V=V because the flow is considered incompressible for this building block (Fig.2A).

To consider the effect of fluid capacitance, it is assumed that only compressibility effects are important, and that inertia and resistance effects may be neglected in the volume under consideration. Therefore,

$$V_1 - V_2 = \frac{L}{K} \frac{dP}{dT}$$

where K is the effective bulk modulus of the propellant fluid, L is a characteristic length and P = P = P (Fig. 2B).

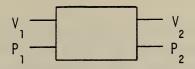
Eecause fluid resistance can be affected by sc many different parameters, it is impossible to write a general equation describing the pressure drop due to fluid resistance. It is best to treat it empirically using an experimentally derived figure. Thus, in the volume under consideration,

$$P_1 - P_2 = Rv V$$

where Rv is a function of fluid velocity and v = v = v (Fig. 2C). Changes in cross sectional area can be accounted for by using appropriate area ratios.

These results specify three building blocks which can be combined in any sequence to model the dynamic characteristics of a system. The complexity of the model can be increased to any degree necessary by including more and more combinations of these three basic building blocks.

A) INERTIA



$$P_1 - P_2 = \rho L \frac{dV}{dT}$$

$$V_1 = V_2 = V$$

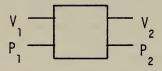
B) CAPACITANCE



$$V_1 - V_2 = \frac{L}{K} \frac{dP}{dT}$$

$$P_1 = P_2 = P$$

C) RESISTANCE



$$P_1 - P_2 = Rv V$$

$$V_1 = V_2 = V$$

Figure 2 - LUMFED FARAMETER MODULES

B. LPG SYSTEM GOVERNING EQUATIONS

Several different combinations of building blocks were tried in attempting to model the experimental LPG system. The experimental results showed that inertial and resistance blocks should be included in the model. The fact that pressure transients occurred in the breech chamber indicated that a capacitance block should also be included. To minimize the use of computer time, it was decided to start with the most simple model thought adequate and work toward more complex models as the quality of the computer results dictated.

The first attempt considered that compressibilty effects would dominate in the injector chamber as the accelerating riston interacted with the propellant fluid. The resistance effects of changes in the feedline cross sectional diameter and associated orifices were modeled as one resistance block the beginning of the connecting line. Inertial effects were thought to dominate in the connecting line. This would be particularly true in large scale models where the length of the connecting line would be very large. It was thought that compressibility effects should again dominate in the breech chamber as the accelerating propellant fluid the projectile down the breech chamber. Results in this were ocverned by inertial effects because calculated connecting line velocity was too great. to a decrease in the chamber pressure as the projectile accelerated until a large negative chamber pressure existed. In addition to this deficiency, the computed system pressure cscillations were not sufficiently damped.

To try to adjust the connecting line velocity, another

resistance rlock was added. As will be seen in the section discussing the parameters which affect the pressure oscillations, the value of this resistance coefficient is proportional to the amount of damping in the pressure oscillations. Even with a value which gave the proper damping, the breech chamber pressure was dominated by the pressure loss due to the accelerating fluid in the connecting line.

To reduce the dominance of the fluid inertia effects, it was decided to restructure the model. To model the injector chamber it was decided to consider the effect of fluid capacitance and inertia. The connecting line was modeled by two resistance blocks separated by a fluid capacitance block. The breech chamber was modeled using a fluid capacitance and a fluid inertia block, as was done for the injector chamber. This model gave the final results described in the section comparing computer and experimental data. Ey combining these building blocks, the governing equations became: (See Fig. (1) for notation)

For the injector:

1.
$$PRA_{1} - P_{1}A_{1} = MP V_{1} + KFS V_{1} + PDI A_{1}$$

2.
$$V_1 - V_2 = \frac{L_1}{K} \dot{P}_1$$

3.
$$P_2 - P_3 = \rho L_1 \dot{V}_2$$

For the connecting line:

4.
$$P_3 - P_4 = RV_1 V_4$$

5.
$$V_4 - V_5 = \frac{L_2}{K} P_4$$

6.
$$P_5 - P_6 = Rv_2 V_5$$

For the breech chamber:

7.
$$P_6 - P_7 = \rho L_3 V_6$$

8.
$$V_7 - V_8 = \frac{L_3}{K} \stackrel{\bullet}{P}_8$$

9.
$$P = A_3 - PDS A_3 = MS V_8 + KFS V_8$$

These equations were subsequently modified to account for changes in cross-sectional area and changing geometry as the injector chamber decreased in volume and the breech chamber increased. Once the projectile reached the end of the breech chamber, the force balance equation was no longer considered applicable. At this time, it was noted that the remaining equations for the connecting line and the breech chamber could be combined to form a second order differential equation for the breech chamber pressure which described the "water hammer" type pressure oscillations displayed by the experimental data. Thus,

10.
$$\ddot{P}_{8} + \frac{A_{3}}{A_{2}} \frac{Rv_{2}}{\rho L_{3}} \dot{P}_{8} + \frac{K}{\rho L_{3}L_{3}} P_{8} = \frac{K}{\rho L_{3}L_{3}} P_{4}$$

Once the injector piston reached the end of its travel, the injector chamber no longer existed and the governing equations were considered as no longer applicable. Ultimately, the injector chamber pressure was propagated down the connecting line as the propellant fluid came to rest. Throughout these analyses, input ram pressure was modeled using experiential terms to fit experimental data.

The equations from the lumred parameter approach for the propellant fluid were combined with the force balance equations for the injector piston and the projectile using State Variable methods. Subsequently, a computer program was constructed to solve these state variable relations using a fourth order Runga-Kutta integration routine for simultaneous first order differential equations which was developed at the Naval Postgraduate School. A brief description of the state variable method and a listing of the computer program can be found in Appendix A.

The following is a listing of the nomenclature and the values of constants used in the derivation of the governing equations and the computer program:

A 1	Injector	1.77	in ²	11.42 cm ²
	Cross-Sectional Area			
A 2	Connecting Line	.255	in ²	1.65 cm ²
	Cross-Sectional Area			
A3	Ereech Chamber	.49	in ²	3.16 cm ²
	Cross-Sectional Area			
A R	Ram Fiston	1.77	in ²	11.42 cm ²
	Cross-Sectional Area			
I1	Injector Length	1.60	in	4.22 cm

L2	Connecting Line Length	16.0	in	40.6	CI
L3	Breech Chamber Length	5.0	in '	12.7	CE
MP	Injector Piston Mass	.0052	lb-sec 2	913.8	g u
MS	Projectile Mass	.00053	<u>lb-sec</u> 2	93.1	gı
KFP	Injector Friction Factor	.001	lb-sec in	175.7	g r /sec
KFS	Projectile Friction	.001	<u>lb-sec</u>	175.7	gm/sec
	Factor		in		
PDI	Injector Back Pressure	24.0	PSI	163.3	k Fa
FDS	Projectile Back	.50	PSI	3.4	kFa
	Pressure				
K	Effective Bulk Modulus	3200	PSI	6808	k Fa
RHC	Propellant Density	.000093	1b-sec_4	.994	3 g I /C II
PR	Ram Pressure		Ccm	puted	
P1	Injector Chamber Pressur	Computed			
V 1	Injector Fiston Velocity	Computed			
V 2	Injector Chamber Exit Ve	Computed			
P4	Connecting Line Pressure	Computed			
V 6	Breech Chamber Entrance	Computed			
F8	Breech Chamber Pressure	Computed			
8.	Projectile Velocity	Computed			

The treatment of several areas of the computer model continually reappeared as requiring refinement. The governing differential equations worked well during the dynamic portion of the feed cycle but experienced difficulties during the initial and final static periods. The handling of static friction and back pressure as a constant value created the possibility of negative velocities until the driving ram pressure overcame the system back pressure. These negative values never occurred

in the real system due to the geometric restraints on the injector riston and projectile; therefore, the computer model had to be manipulated to maintain this condition. Unfortunately the need for simultaneous solution of the governing equations made it difficult to manipulate the initial conditions without greatly increasing the complexity of the computer model. After the projectile stopped, the transitic ffrcm the force balance equation on the projectile to an equation describing the fluid velocity in response to the pressure transients was awkward. No simple differential equation describes the complexity of the wave mechanics involved with the reflection of the pressure waves in the system. In this regard several alternate involving sequential alterations of the governing equations were tried with varying degrees of success.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF EXPERIMENTAL APPARATUS

In crder that the comparison of the experimental and computer generated data can be fully understood, a brief description of the NPS experimental apparatus and the conduct of the associated experiments is included (See Ref. 1, pages 17-27).

The test chamber was fabricated from a three-inch O.D. Lucite cylirder, 18 inches long, bored to a 20 mm inside ciameter and fitted with aluminum end caps. The chamber was loaded with a brass slug weighing 93 grams which rode on two graphite filled Teflon sealing rings. The brass slug, which simulated the projectile, was cycled from the breech end of the chamber to the barrel end and returned to the breech end, completing one hypothetical firing cycle.

Because of the desire to vary the charge to mass ratio, a variable chamber velocity was necessary. To accomplish this with one chamber, a volume control retaining rod was designed into the system. This brass rod, bored to allow gas to pass its length, was threaded through a plate which was attached to the barrel end cap holding the rod in the chamber. The rod, which has a Teflon disc on the end, not only established the volume of the test chamber, but provided a ruffer stop for the slug at the end of its forward motion. Another Teflon buffer was affixed to the breech end cap to cushion the slug in return motion.

The LFG simulator started a simulated firing cycle with the slug at the breech end of the empty chamber, as shown in Fig. (3).

PNEUMATIC CONTROL SYSTEM IN RAM POSITION က Figure

This is the ready-to-ram position. The simulated propellant, distilled water, was then introduced, ramming the slug to the opposite (barrel) end of the chamber as the chamber was filled. This was accomplished by applying gas pressure to a power piston which drove the injector piston. The injector piston forced the propellant past a flow check valve and into the chamber. This placed the slug in the ready-to-fire or in-battery position. In an actual gun, the propellant would be ignited at this time in the cycle. Due to laboratory constraints, an expulsion system was used.

An IVDT displacement transducer was manufactured and mounted next to the injector piston. The LVDT was attached to the connecting rod, between the power piston and the injector piston. The volume of the liquid being placed under pressure during each shot was measured by filling the system in the ready-to-ram position and then draining it into a graduated beaker. By measuring the displacement of the injector piston head with the LVDT, the volumetric rate of fluid injection during the ram stroke was obtained.

Two pressure taps were drilled in the test chamber. These taps were located as close to the breech end as possible, one at 20 degrees from top center and the other at 20 degrees from bottom center in a counterclockwise direction, as seen from the breech end of the chamber. Only the bottom location was used to record data.

A 4-channel Hewlett-Packard 3960 Magnetic Tape Recorder was used to FM record desired data during system operation. For each cata run signals were recorded from two Kaman diaphragms type (1000 psi) pressure transducers, one connected to the breech pressure tap on the test chamber, and the other to the gas injection side of the power piston. The pressure signals were processed with a Kaman Digi-Vit Readout Unit which also provided a visual (digital) display.

Data from the LVDT displacement transducer was also recorded on the tage.

A Brush Recorder (Mark 280) was used to obtain a visual display of the recorded data. By transcribing the desired signals on the Magnetic Tape Recorder at a tape speed of 15 feet per minute and playing them back into the Brush Recorder at 3-3/4 feet per minute, the time scale of the cutrut was expanded by a factor of four on the Brush recordings (viz., from a real-time maximum of 200 mm/sec to a delayed time maximum of 800 mm/sec.)

V. CCMPARISON OF COMPUTER AND EXPERIMENTAL DATA

As mentioned previously, experimental data was taken for raw gas pressures ranging from 50 to 220 psig. From this collection of data, one run at 140 psig was selected as representative of system performance. It was felt that any model which would adequately describe system operation at this intermediate pressure would be valid for the entire range of expected IPG driving pressures.

Figure (4) is a comparison of computed and recorded data for injector pistor displacement. As can be seen, the agreement is very good. This is not very significant in that all models tried, as well as the original analog computer model, were able to correctly predict injector piston motion.

Figure (5) is a comparison of analytical results and experimental data for breech chamber pressure. The computer model follows the shape of the experimental curve for the duration of the time that the projectile is in motion (0-30 msec). It cscillates very rapidly but does not fall cff to a zero value at the end of the projectile motion. frequency of these initial oscillations is approximately 1.0 khz which is within the frequency range of the Kaman pressure transducers used in testing. However, the mounting of these transducers within a connecting cavity instead of flush with the chamber wall could have led to them experiencing a reduced, lagging frequency response. Ιt felt that some, if not all, of the computed pressure oscillations must exist as evidenced by the close correspondence of the first two peaks in Fig. (5). The

accuracy of the experimental pressure reading could also be considered as being reduced by the location of the pressure transducer in the test setup. It is possible that the monitoring pressure tap was too close to the end of the breech chamber and may not have sensed the full chamber pressure during the latter part of the projectile's travel when the fluid velocity is greatest. It is felt that to adequately describe the pressure decrease toward zero, it would be necessary to completely account for exact changes in system cecmetry. To do this would require using a distributed parameter approach featuring variable lengths for the injector chamber and breech chamber.

The pressure transients which occur after the projectile steps are complex interference phenomena which are not fully described by the model. However, the peak pressure and the natural frequency of oscillation of the computer model compare favorably with the experimental data. Unfortunately, the damping characteristics of the model do not follow the experimental data well. The system parameters which determine these values will be discussed in the next section.

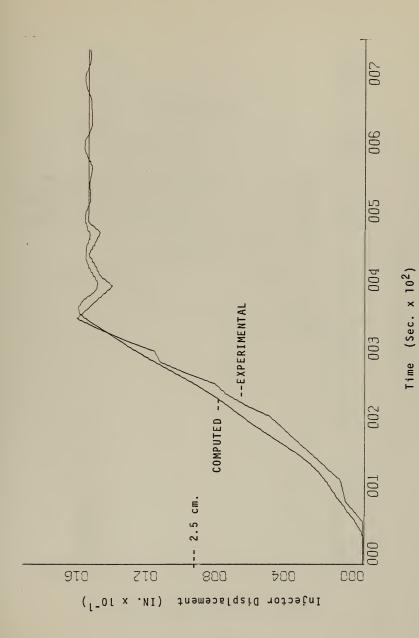
It should be reiterated that the lumped parameter approach is an approximation. In a distributed parameter approach, pressure and velocity would vary continuously with distance within the system as well as with time. In the lumped parameter approach, these changes are assumed to occur only at the input and output of a building block; therefore, pressure and velocity are considered constant within the building block. This will always lead to some discrepancies when comparing model data to experimental data taken at at a fixed point.

Figure (6) shows the simultaneous pressure history for several areas of the LPG feed system. The input ram

pressure, injector chamber pressure, connecting line pressure, and breech chamber pressure are graphed as functions of time.

Figures (7) and (8) show the simultaneous velocities at several points as predicted by the computer model. The injector piston velocity, fluid propellant velocities at the beginning and end of the connecting line, and projectile velocity are plotted as functions of time.

The injector and projectile displacements as functions of time are included as Figure (9). As can be seen from Figures (7), (8), and (9), the movement of the injector piston is much more rapid than that of the projectile. It is felt that this velocity difference is very much a function of system geometry and should not be considered as a generalization for all LPG feed systems. The NPS experimental apparatus being modeled had only small pressure drops between injector and breech chambers. In addition, the projectile slug was an order of magnitude lighter than the injector piston. In large scale systems, with significant pressure drops and very massive projectiles, it is quite possible that the injector piston's full stroke will occur significantly before the projectile has seated.



4 - COMPARISON OF INJECTOR PISTON DISPLACEMENT Figure

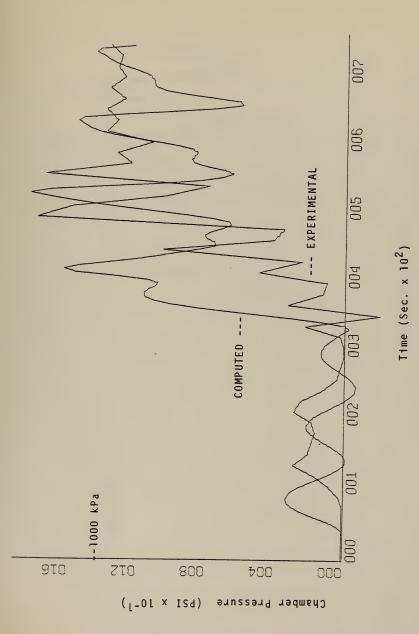
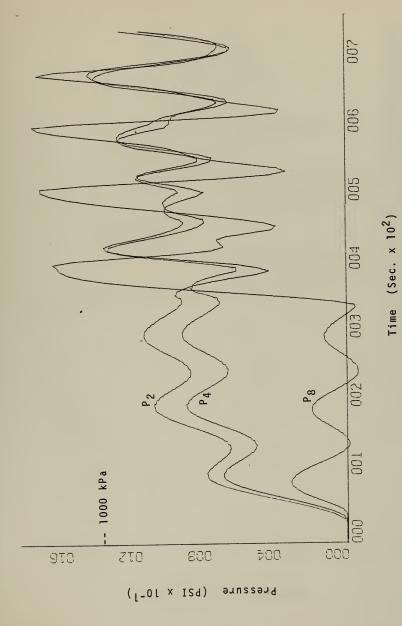


Figure 5 - COMPARISON OF BREECH CHAMBER PRESSURE

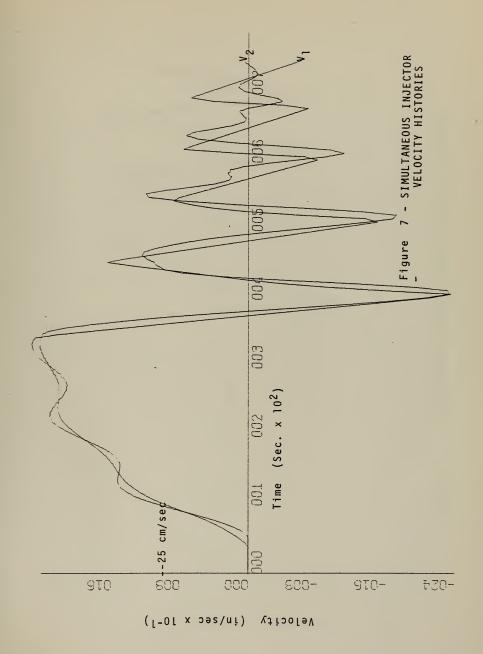


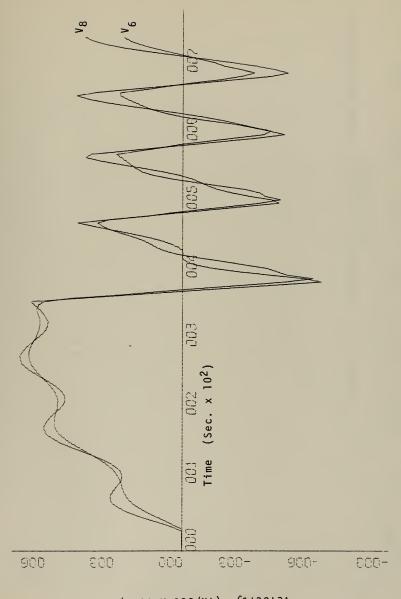
SIMULTANEOUS PRESSURE HISTORIES

- 9

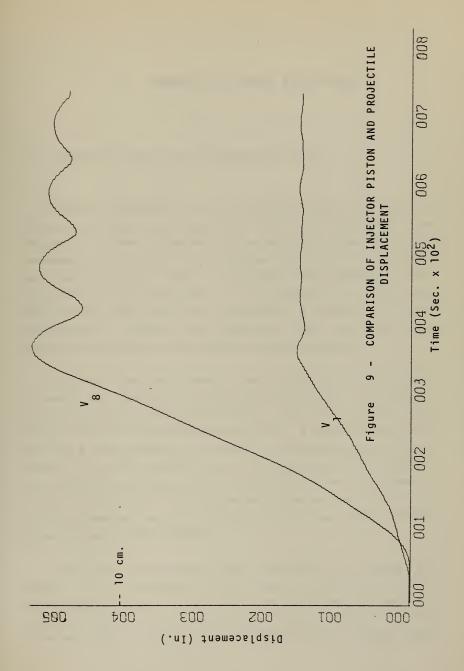
Figure

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Velocity (in/sec x lo-1)



VI. ANALYSIS OF SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

A. PARAMETERS AFFECTING PROJECTILE RAM TIME

Several parameters can be varied to "tune" the model to correct ram time. In equations (1) and (9) (the force balances on the injector piston and projectile) empirical constants are included which account for any static friction and back pressure (PDI = injector back pressure, PDS = projectile tack pressure). In equations (4) and (6), resistance coefficients are introduced to account for system resistances. Finally in equations (2), (5), and (8), propellant effective bulk modulus values appear.

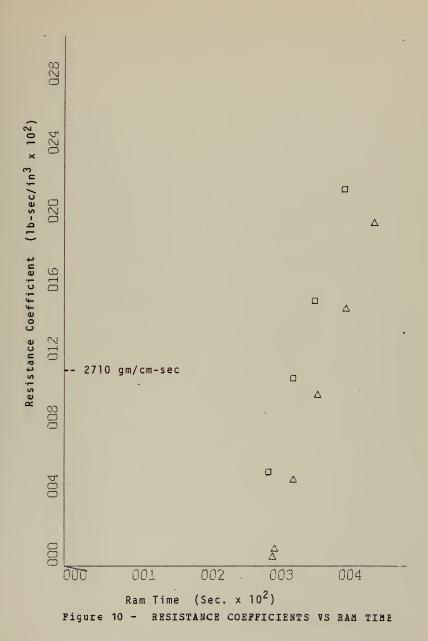
The value for the injector and projectile total back pressure is difficult to determine precisely. Reference 1 cited an experimentally determined value of 24 psi. The analog computer model presented in Ref. 2 used a value of 46 psi for a raw pressure of 140 psi. The present model uses a value of 24 psi for PDI and 0.5 psi for PDS, or a total of 24.5 psi back pressure, which agrees with the experimental value. The value of system back pressure will vary with driving pressure and the configuration of each LPG system's injector and breech chambers.

Some lasic research has been conducted to relate the value of the resistance coefficients to fluid properties. Unfortunately these studies which are described in Refs. 4 and 5, dealt with steady state fluid flow in constant diameter lines without flow restrictions, making their

results inapplicable to the present LPG feed system problem. The value of EV can be related to the damping ratio of the "water hammer" pressure oscillations. The value of RV was determined by an iterative process to obtain the best fit to experimental data. Figure (10) shows the dependence of ram-time on RV and RV, keeping all other variables constant. As expected intuitively, increasing the fluid resistance creates a larger system pressure drop, resulting in a lower pressure exerted on the face of the projectile and hence slower ram times. The slope of the two curves are almost identical so that no significant advantage would be achieved by system designs which try to minimize either RV or RV to the detriment of the other. It should be noted, however, that higher values for RV do tend to slow down the ram time more than high values for RV. Since the magnitude of BV would probably depend mostly on the pressure drcp at the gun valve, which seals the breech chamber, its design should be closely watched to ensure rapid ram times. Likewise the system designer will have to pay close attention to the design of the piping and valves in a large scale LPG feed system to achieve optimum performance.

The value of the effective bulk modulus was determined from the undamped natural frequency of the "water hammer" pressure oscillations as will be discussed in the next section. The bulk modulus is a fluid parameter which characterizes the spring effect of a liquid. The bulk modulus can be substantially lowered by the elasticity of the chamber and connecting line walls and the amount of entrapped gas present in the propellant fluid. As can be

seen from Figure (11), the value of the bulk modulus has cnly a small effect on ram time. Between bulk mcdulus values of 10,000 and 100,000 psi (the expected operating region of an operational system) the ram time is almost corstant, varying less than a quarter of a millisecond. This is an encouraging result since minimizing entrapped gas is a difficult and costly design constraint.



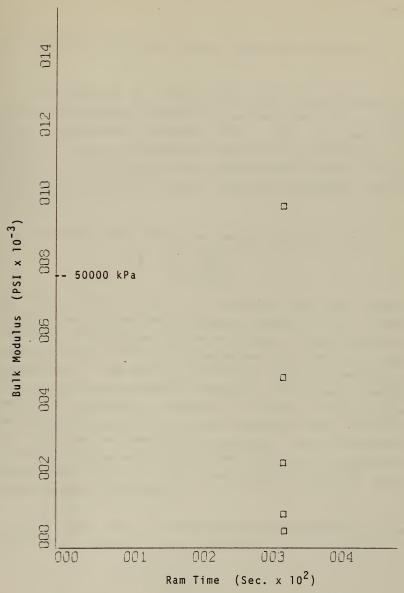


Figure 11 - BULK MODULUS VS RAM TIME

E. PARAMETERS AFFECTING CHAMBER PRESSURE CSCILLATIONS

As explained in Section III, after the projectile has stopped the chamber pressure can be described by a second order differential equation (Eqn. 10). If the system described by this differential equation is underdamped, the solution to the equation is an exponentially damped sinusoid with a characteristic damping ratio and undamped natural frequency.

From Eqn. (10), the system damping ratio, X is:

$$8 = \frac{A_3}{A_2} \frac{Rv_2}{2\sqrt{\rho K}}$$

If this damping ratio is increased, the peak chamber pressure as well as the dissipation period of the system pressure oscillations will be decreased. From a designer's point of view, it would be advantageous for both of these quantities to be as low as possible. Hence, it would seem that an increase in system resistance to enhance damping would be desirable. However, as shown in the previous section, an increase in the system resistance also increases the ram time— an undesirable occurrence. Thus, alterations in system configuration which affect resistance coefficient values will have to be accomplished carefully to insure optimal system performance.

From Eqn. (10), the undamped natural frequency of the pressure oscillations in the LFG system is:

$$WN = \sqrt{\frac{K}{\rho L_3 L_3}}$$

The primary effect of ullage would be to decrease the value

of effective bulk modulus and consequently to decrease the natural frequency of pressure oscillations. Hence, should it be found in future tests that the actual liquid propellant is highly sensitive to pressure oscillations, changes in ullage may be effected to decrease system ringing. Fortunately, as shown in the previous section, the effect of ullage variations on ram time is minimal.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

Several important conclusions can be drawn from the output of the LPG ram feed computer model. Thus. realized that serious design consideration must be given to the values of fluid resistances in the feed system in order to minimize ram time and peak pressures, and to optimize the damring cf system pressure transients. Fortuantely, concommitant model results also show that the effect of entrapped gas is minimal for the overall operation of a LPG system. The model was unable to account fcr any cavitation effects so this is an area that must be a subject of further studies.

The fact that large pressure transients occur during the projectile ramming cycle indicates the difficulties that might arise with proposed designs for liquid propellant guns with variable propellant volumes and projectile displacements. The pressure transients experienced in these systems will undoubtedly be very complex in nature.

If further improvements are desired in the modeling of LPG feed systems, the next step should be the inclusion of thermodynamic effects. For any real fluid, resultant feed system pressure and velocity changes will cause temperature changes which may substantially affect the propellant fluid density. Consequently, propellant ignition characteristics at high rates of fire will undoubtedly be affected.

The lumped parameter LPG feed system computer model has been shown to be in favorable agreement with experimental data. It is felt that this model has been sufficiently

validiated to allow its use in more complicated LFG feed system designs. It is expected that this model will be used by the Naval Crdnance Station, Indian Head, Maryland to assist in studying the fluid dynamic characteristics of a 30 mm scale model LPG feed system becoming operational in June 1976. It will be necessary to make the obvious changes to describe the different geometry of the 30 mm scale The additional line lengths, and the larger pressure drops due to complex valve arrangements in the 30 mm system require different values for model back pressure and resistance ccefficients. The presence of an accumulator near the breech chamber will affect the value of the system damping ratic. It is possible that the different geometry mass characteristics of the 30 mm model could result in injector piston being slower than the projectile. However by incorporating all of these alterations, the manner in which each of the system parameters affect total system performance will be able to be predicted by the versatile lumped parameter computer model developed in this study.

As such, computer simulation is a useful design tool. However, to remain useful, it must be viewed in its proper perspective. Full scale prototype testing is the ordnance method of demonstrating conclusive performance. Unfortunately, testing is both costly and time Thus, computer simulation, no matter how simple consuming. can be used to designate critical testing or complex, instances and to identify those areas where design efforts will be most productive. In this way, the time involved in optimizing system performance as well as subsequent production costs can be reduced. In explosives research and ordnance design, which is still an empirical and necessarily hazardous science, computer simulation can be particularly useful in specifying the correct approach for design testing practices. In this respect, such models as the

parameter model developed in this study can be considered as critical signposts at some of the many crossroads in systems development. However, it must be realized that as such they cnly point the way. The vehicle for arriving at an operational system can only be diligent research and engineering based on a measured progression of system demonstrations overseen by dedicated project managers aware of the many ritfalls along the way.

APPENDIX A

COMPUTER PROGRAM LISTING

The tasis of the state variable method of systems analysis is the interpretation that the energy state of the components of a system completely describes the condition of a system. As defined in Ref. 6, the state of a system is the set of variables, the "state variables", which contain sufficient information about the present condition of system to remit the determination of all future time history of the system - provided that all future inputs to system are known. Therefore the energy state of those elements which store energy completely describes the system. the case of the lumped parameter model, these elements are the fluid inertia and capacitance and the inertia cf the injector piston and projectile. The energy state of these storage elements can be described as a function of time terms of the state variables - pressure, velocity, and the system input pressure. Only those variables required to completely specify the state of the system need to be included.

The first step in arriving at the computer program was to take equations (1) through (9) and normalize, or solve them for the highest derivative. The state variables then become the pressure or velocity associated with these first derivatives. The computer program was developed by combining equations and defining new variables as follows:

Equation (1) becomes:

$$XDOT(1) = \frac{-K_{FP}}{M_{P}} X(1) - \frac{A_{1}}{M_{P}} X(2) + \frac{A_{R}}{M_{P}} P_{R} - \frac{A_{1}}{M_{P}} P_{DI}$$

the computer program, PR is represented by X(30) and KPP PDI become program constants, C(7) and respectively. The value of C(2) and C(7) are input on data Using the fact that $P_1 = P_2$, equation (2) becomes:

$$XDOT(2) = \frac{K}{L_1} X(1) - \frac{K}{L_1} X(3)$$

where K is input to the computer program as C(3). By combining equations (3) and (4) and using the incompressible flow assumption A V = A V the next equation is derived:

$$XDOT(3) = \frac{1}{RHO \ L_1} (\ X(2) - Rv \ \frac{A_1}{A_2} \ X(3) - X(4))$$
RV recomes C(4). Next equation (5) and

incompressible flow assumptions $\begin{bmatrix} A & V & = A & V \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} A & V & = A & V \\ 2 & 5 & 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$ yi∈ld:

$$XDOT(4) = \frac{A_1}{A_2} \frac{K}{L_2} X(3) - \frac{A_3}{A_2} \frac{K}{L_2} X(4)$$

as tefcre, C(3)=K. Equations (6) and (7) combine with the flow velocity equation $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ = $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{6}$ to yield:

$$XDOT(5) = \frac{1}{RHo L_3} \left(X(4) - Rv \frac{A_3}{A_2} X(5) - X(8) \right)$$
RV becomes C(5). Since $V = V_7$ equation (8) becomes:

$$XDOT(8) = \frac{K}{L_3} X(5) - \frac{K}{L_3} X(9)$$

where K again becomes C(3). Finally, equation (9) becomes:

$$XDOT(9) = \frac{-K_{FS}}{M_{S}} X(9) + \frac{A_{3}}{M_{S}} X(8) - \frac{A_{3}}{M_{S}} PDS$$

where KFS and PDS become C(8) and C(9) respectively. The auxiliary equations:

$$XDOT(6) = X(1)$$

$$XDOT(7) = X(9)$$

are used to calculate injector piston displacement, X(6), and projectile displacement, X(7).

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ANY UNSUBSCRIPTED VARIABLES

(N.LT.I.LE.30) SUBSCRIPTED VARIABLES X(I), HE 8 CCNSTANTS ((1), (I .LE. 8, TO RE ENTEREC AS CATA) **THE**

ANY NORMAL FORTRAN TECHNICUE OR FUNCTION

I: THE USE OF "AUXILIARY" X(I) (WHEN I GT. NUMBER CF EQUATIONS TO BE INTEGRATED) DOES NCT ALTER THE VALUE OF N, THE ORDER OF THE EQUATIONS. ROUTINES FROM ANY SOURCE LIERARY OR LSER-SUPPLIED SUBROUTINES NOT

A CO STATEMENT ARE WITHOUT : LOOPS, EITHER WITH CR BEST AVOICED. 7 NOTE

"IF" STATEMENTS, PRCVIDED THAT THEY CO NOT CREATE A LOOP, CAN BE USED TO TRANSFER CCNTROL WITHIN THE USER'S EQUATIONS. FCR EXAMPLE, THE STATEMENT IO.1 (3) (3) 2 0 TAKE THE VALUE ZERO FCR ALL T GREATE THAN 10.

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CONSTANTS

(10) MUST NEVER BE USED, EXCEPT AS INDICATED IN THE STANDARD \$/360 DECK ABOVE. C(11) AND C(12) CONTROL THE OLIPUT. FOR XAMPLE, IF THE STATEMENTS CONSTANTS C(1) THROUGH C(8) MAY BE USED AS DESCRIBED ABOVE EXAMPLES, AND ARE READ IN FROM A DATA CARD. 里里

ш Н PUT 30) TEGRA-LEEE TZE GE -VARIABL CCLUMNS THE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE "I" AND THE VARIABLES X(1)

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FOR EXAMPLE, BY ADDING THE FORTRAN ECLATION. 7.0 下らしらら 1-48. TION NAME OF THE PARTY ·UJ N (.LE . EXAPPE EC SALL ~OUUCUU œ THE SQUARE OF X(3) CAN BE GUTPLT BY THE FRCGRAM AS X(27) NORM ALLY, A LINE OF PRINTOUT IS GENERATEC AFTER EVERY 26 GRAPH FOINT (PER CURVE) AFTER EVERY 10N STEPS, AND ONE GRAPH FOINT (PER CURVE) AFTER EVERTHE PREVIOUS SECTION SECTION A RUN IS TERMINATED THE PREVIOUS SECTION A RUN IS TERMINATED AS INNEXCURVE). PPEAR INDEPENCENT V PPEAR IN THE CROER ECIMAL POINTS, IN (EI THE THE THE IN C LABEL IN COLUMNS ×0. centif ARE ADDED TO THE USERS FORTRAN EQUATIONS, EVERY TENTION STEP WILL BE PRINTED OUT, AND EVERY SECOND STEP STET BY THE USER, DEFALL VALUES OF APPLY.) C(13) CAN BE SIMILARLY USED TO MCDIFY THE THE NUMERICAL INTEGRATION WHICH IS MORE USCALLY DEFECTATE CARD. ECUATIONS, ATION шн ---OX. ERENTIAL E SEC EG SS. Z PROCES E USE ENT OVO VALUES (ET) JOB IDENTIFICATION
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